

**Resolution on Priority Needs and Funding**  
**Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission**

Whereas Mecklenburg County is simultaneously experiencing rapid population growth and diminishing availability of land for parkland acquisition;

Whereas the population density, geographic spread, and individual diversity of Mecklenburg County have changed substantially since adoption of the 2008 Master Plan;

Whereas many low- to moderate-income households in Mecklenburg County experience barriers to access Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation facilities, programs, and services;

Whereas Mecklenburg County has the City of Charlotte, the County's six Towns and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools as partners in land acquisition and land development who are actively engaged in development of Comprehensive Land Use Planning;

Whereas many of the voter-approved 2008 Master Plan bond projects not only remain incomplete, but are not fully funded through the 2023 CIP, 15 years beyond approval by Mecklenburg County voters;

Whereas recreation centers, parks, and greenway trails make up the unfunded 2008 bond projects, of which recreation centers and parks serve all community members and greenways have an immediate 3:1 return on investment;

Whereas park and recreation spending per resident in Mecklenburg County averages less than half the national average;

Whereas the number of full-time staff members for the department remains lower today than in 2010 and 20% below today's calculated need, even as the number of parks and facilities continues to grow; and

Whereas the quality, safety, and availability of park and recreation facilities is diminished as a result of deferring maintenance beyond accepted usable life; now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission (PRC):

1. supports current fiscal year funding for the **creation of a new park and recreation master plan**, inclusive of an aggressive land acquisition strategy, in collaboration with city and town planning boards and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools that serves 2030 population projections;
2. urges immediate revision to the CIP to **fully fund and complete the 2008 bond projects by 2023**;
3. supports budget allocations necessary to **adequately staff the department** for planning, land acquisition, programming, and proactive maintenance that keeps pace with need; including **approval to initiate immediate hiring** of a minimum of 1/3 the current need in the current fiscal year;

4. supports the review and adoption of new policy to ensure park and recreation programs and **services are accessible without cost barriers** to all citizens, regardless of income;
5. supports the adoption of policy to supplement deferred maintenance funding by creation of continuous **dedicated routine maintenance funding** to prevent continued unfunded operational mandates and the need for future deferred maintenance; and
6. urges the creation of a **scorecard and regular reporting** cadence to track new master plan progress.

Heidi Pruess, Chair

Rick Winiker, Vice Chair

Peter Engels, Executive Secretary

Doug Burnett, Brian Cox, Paul Freestone, Ann Harrison, Mary Foxx Johnson, Rufus Kearney, Sterling Martin, Blanche Penn

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